New students ‘SOAR’ with UT Martin program

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program. The final SOAR date has been scheduled for July 26-27, with check-in set for 2:30 p.m. at Boling University Center.

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Memphis Photos

University of Tennessee at Martin students (second from left) Brandy Hardy, David Deaton, Ashley Strader Ballard, Mary Unger, Josh Weiss of Germantown and Rebecca Alsup won awards in the Public Relations Society of America Student Vox Awards competition. They are pictured with (left) Tracy Rutledge, UT Martin instructor of communications, and Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications.
Marine tests limits to honor friend
50-mile run raised money for fallen Army sergeant's son

BY NICHOLAS BEADLE
NBEADLE@JACKSONSUN.COM
- JULY 4, 2010

Under a red tent on the lawn of Community Bank on North Highland Avenue late Saturday morning, P.J. Kellogg was finishing a banana with an N in his arm and his legs from his knees down planted in a cooler filled with water.

He was so weak that when he was asked to pull a slip of paper out of a cardboard box to announce the winner of a drawing to be announced to the dozens of supporters around the tent, he could barely grasp the paper.

But he had only one thing to say about the muscle-burning athletic abuse he had just put himself through.

"He would have done it for me," he told a crowd of supporters, "... He was my brother."

Kellogg, a Marine corporal, ran 50 miles Saturday morning - from Newbern to North Jackson - to honor his friend, Army Sgt. Israel "izzy" O'Bryan, who was killed in Iraq last month. The run, promoted by TJ Network talk radio, raised more than $7,000 for O'Bryan's 1-year-old son Turner.

It also drew a shifting caravan that followed Kellogg throughout the morning - including community leaders, political candidates and people who came from out of state to support and join in the run.

Other friends of O'Bryan also tested themselves, though probably not to the same extent as Kellogg, to support the run. Army Capt. Joe Davis, 30, another friend of O'Bryan, said he flew into Nashville on Friday night and then drove to West Tennessee, getting only the slightest bit of sleep before eventually joining Kellogg for part of the run.

Tony Boyle, 27, who was O'Bryan's fraternity brother at University of Tennessee Martin, shuttled people to and from the pack all morning after Kellogg began his run at City Hall in Newbern. O'Bryan's hometown, at midnight Saturday.

"I've cried every single day since," he heard of O'Bryan's death, Boyle said. "This event is something I'll never forget."

Getting to the finish line was tough. The July morning heat hit worse than Kellogg said he expected - with temperatures in Jackson officially in the upper 80s when he finished at the bank - and the run finished about an hour later than initially projected.

He finished the last mile with his arms around the shoulders of two men - one carrying an American flag, another carrying a red Marine flag.

Kellogg said that while the run was tough, he knew he could not let down his fallen friend.

"I don't feel like I've done anything," he said. "I just did what I said I would do."
METEOROLOGY DEMONSTRATION — On June 17, Dr. Robert Simpson, professor of geography from the University of Tennessee at Martin, presented a program on meteorology using several weather instruments. This was a part of the Sharon Public Library’s summer reading program.

Hawley attends Gov.’s School

Some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the four-week long Governor’s School for the Humanities (GSH) at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Lincoln County participant was Jocelyn Hawley of Lincoln County High School.

UT Martin has hosted the GSH program since 1985, and this was the seventh year students were able to earn college credit.

Final UTM SOAR date July 26-27

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UT Martin to offer Web Camp

High school students can spend several days this summer learning how to develop and maintain Web pages at a Web Camp offered by the University of Tennessee at Martin.

This three-day intensive camp is planned July 19-21 in Room 227 of the College of Business and Global Studies. Students will learn about generating Web pages using content management systems such as Wordpress, using HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Microsoft Access, and Silverlight. Each day will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions with both lectures and hands-on activities.

The registration fee is $165 and includes lunch at Skyhawk Cafe on campus, a flash drive and a T-shirt.

Register using any of the following contacts: telephone, 731-881-7082 or 731-881-7081; fax, send completed form to 731-881-7984; online, http://www.utm.edu/departments/ece/degree/children.php; mail, send completed form to ECOS, 110 Gooch Hall, Martin, TN 38238. The office is located at 110 Gooch Hall. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.

Bob Bradley and Dr. Bryan Foltz will be camp instructors. Bradley is a UT Martin instructor of Computer Science. He was involved in developing the first Web server on the UT Martin campus nearly 17 years ago when he worked for the campus IT department. He has been teaching computer science full time for the last eight years. Bradley is a consultant and helps local businesses and organizations develop and maintain their Web pages. He is experienced in developing Web projects using technologies such as HTML, CSS, PHP, Asp.Net, MySql, JavaScript and jQuery.

Foltz is a UT Martin associate professor of information systems. He taught his first Web development seminar in 1996 while a doctoral student at the University of Arkansas. Since that time, he has been involved with multiple Web site development projects.

He has been webmaster and computer consultant for Dalton Farms/Pumpkin Hollow, an agri-tourism business located near Piggott, Ark., for 15 years. He also spent almost 10 years as webmaster for the Clark family, missionaries to Kenya. In addition, Foltz served as an HTML consultant for the University of Arkansas Department of Rehabilitation Education.

SOAR TO HELP UT MARTIN STUDENTS PREPARE FOR FALL SEMESTER

Tenn. — Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program.

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THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2010

SOAR prepares UTM students for fall semester

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AREA RESIDENTS ATTEND GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL FOR THE HUMANITIES AT UT MARTIN

Some of Tennessee’s best and brightest high school juniors and seniors attended the four-week long Governor’s School for the Humanities (GSH) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. UT Martin has hosted the GSH program since 1985, and this was the seventh year students were able to earn college credit. Weakley County participant was Mercedes Rubio of Westview High School.

Alexandra Clere, a graduate of CWHS, plans to major in English or drama at Marian Methodist College.

She is the daughter of Darvin Clere and Amy Tangenstrom, and the granddaughter of Sy Tangenstrom. She is a member of White Bluff United Methodist Church and is involved in several church activities.

Kayla Warden, a graduate of Dickson County High School, also received the Jr. Spann Memorial Scholarship.

Warden plans to major in education at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She is the daughter of Byron and Meva Warden.

Warden is a member of Bums United Methodist Church and is involved in several church activities.

The Dickson County United Methodist Lady Club established the scholarship in memory of J.T. Spann Jr., to honor his Christian life and acknowledge his leadership and support of the Lady Club.

Each year two $500 scholarships are available to students who meet the application criteria. Application forms are available from school counselors and need to be returned to the school counselors by March 1 each school year.

Alyssa Braxton of Collierville was honored as a University Scholar at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

UT Martin sets final SOAR date

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SUMMER ORIENTATION AND REGISTRATION AT UTM

Raven Thompson, of Jackson, recently attended Summer Orientation and Registration (S.O.A.R.) at the University of Tennessee at Martin. A Madison Academic High School graduate, Thompson will attend UT Martin in the fall. With Thompson is her mother, Berneda Thompson. Students at S.O.A.R. met with academic advisers and registered for classes; toured the campus and residence halls; received information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and heard detailed information about the first-year initiative.

Submitted Photo

Polk County News.

UT Martin Dean’s List

The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2010 Dean’s Lists. To be eligible for dean’s list recognition at UT Martin, a student must have at least 12 hours of credit and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean’s list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0). On the list from Polk County is Nicholas A. Lewis of Ocoee, Honors.
UTM Recycles! offers a ‘greener’ community

Charlie McIntosh
Staff Writer

While UT Martin’s Recycling Barn is trying to lead the community into “greener” disposal methods, Weakley County schools are trying to find room in a tighter utilities budget.

Although changes are being made to the utilities budget that will see county schools cut back on electricity usage, trying to reduce the budget’s substantial waste costs is a different issue. According to Weakley County Director of Schools Randy Frazier, a large portion of the current utilities budget – which includes those power costs – also includes costs dedicated to daily refuse disposal for the 10 schools throughout the county.

“A big portion of those utilities costs is all the trash coming from the cafeteria,” Frazier says. “We could recoup some of those funds from recycling, but those disposal fees will remain roughly the same.”

The cuts to the utilities budget – intended to support a one percent salary increase for educators in the county – were proposed by the Health, Education and Economic Development committee. The recent installation of more energy efficient lighting fixtures for each school gymnasium is intended to support the planned utilities cut.

Frazier explains that chartering a deal with a recycling service would be a benefit, but the costs to maintain such a deal might negate any savings.

“There is probably some paper mixed in with our garbage that we try to recycle as best we can, and doing that could result in a tremendous amount of savings,” Frazier says. “Even home consumers have to pay to recycle somehow. When you’re talking about 10 schools throughout the county, then that’s a big commitment.”

Frazier does note that there is still room for community and school organized recycling drives.

“We have a number of projects for recycling cans and printer cartridges,” Frazier says. “We’re always looking for ways to conserve and save resources as much as we can. We’ve tried to become as paperless as we can and over the years this is something I think we will continue to work on.”

One such instance of an organized event was the recycling of textbooks for schools in the county. The Recycling Barn at UT Martin, headed by UTM Custodial Manager Dennis Kosta, recently picked up roughly 5,000 used textbooks for recycling.

GREEN
FROM PAGE 1

recycling from each county school. The Recycling Barn has also handled pick-ups for K-12 schools in Martin.

Kosta says that he would like to continue working with the county schools for routine pick-ups, but he has not yet made any long-term deals with the county.

He admits that the major logistic challenges with “going green” may be keeping city and county officials at bay.

“It is a headache dealing with everything,” Kosta says. “I was hoping that we would have a partnership but the county and surrounding cities haven’t worked with us yet. The community wants to do this but the city and county just doesn’t want to deal with the headache.”

Kosta goes on to say that there is a demand for a larger, government funded recycling program outside of the University for the Weakley County area.

Kosta adds that the money that comes from the Tennessee Litter Grant, a yearly grant awarded by TDOT to each of Tennessee’s 95 counties, could be used to help support a non-university recycling center if the county were to get one.

“We’re the only county in the region that doesn’t have its own recycling plant,” Kosta says. “The county has people driving around for this litter grant program and a lot of the stuff that’s litter out here is recyclable. Why not have them recycle it here in the county?”
Director of UTM's Recycle Barn speaks to Greenfield Rotary

Dennis Kosta, director of the U.T.M. Recycle Barn, spoke to the Greenfield Rotary Club recently, and told the Rotarians that almost everything that we throw away is recyclable, and that the Recycle Barn can handle all kinds of garbage. He stated that recycling saves UTM $70,000 a year in garbage fees.

Among the "garbage" that they recycle is food from the cafeteria, which is mixed with bedding from the stock barn and made into compost.

Kosta said that two tons of cardboard, or the equivalent of 17 trees, are recycled by the Barn every day.

He stated that they had recently purchased a $24,000 paper shredder that can shred all kinds of paper, from newspaper to junk mail.

He told the Rotarians that recycling just one aluminum can will save enough electricity to burn a light bulb for four hours.

Dennis Kosta

Piano students excel in UT-Martin competition

Three piano students of Barbara Young recently were selected to participate in the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Music Piano Competition.

SHERIDAN Daniels, a graduating high school senior, competed in the Piano Solo competition for Grades 10-12. Her musical selections performed were "Risoluto" by J.C. Bach and "Gypsy Prayer" by R. Faber. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Daniels of South Fulton and has been a piano student of Young for five years.

RYANNE Kessel, a fourth grader, competed in the Elaine Harris Elementary Competition Solo through grade six. Her musical selections were "Watching the Waves" by Kevin Whitney, and "Golden Trumpets" by James Bastien. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Kessel of South Fulton, she has completed two and one half years at the piano with Young.

HAILEY Slaughter, a sixth grader, also competed in the Elaine Harris Elementary Competition Solo category. Her repertoire included "Tarantella" by James Bastien, and also "Roumanian Rhapsody." Parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Slaughter of South Fulton. She has been a piano student of Young for five years.

Each participant received a certificate from Dr. Elaine Harris and a musical skill demonstration critique report from Dr. Allyson Nelson, renowned concert pianist and professor emeritus from the University of Tennessee at Martin.

UTM piano class offered

The University of Tennessee at Martin will offer a piano class Aug. 3, from 6-9:30 p.m. The beginning class is in chord piano where, in one lesson, students will learn all the chords needed to play any pop song, any style, any key, reading chord symbols, not notes.

If students do not know treble clef, they may send a self-addressed stamped envelope for a free pamphlet to: Music Masters, 90 Molly Lane, Ringgold, Ga. 30736. To register, call 800-482-5199.
University of Tennessee at Martin students (second from left) Brandy Hardy, David Deaton, Ashley Strader Ballard, Mary Unger, Josh Weiss of Germantown and Rebecca Alsop won awards in the Public Relations Society of America Student Vox Awards competition. They are pictured with (left) Tracy Rutledge, UT Martin instructor of communications, and Jeff Hoyer, associate professor of communications.

Richardson scholar named

Jamie Page (second from right) was named recently as the winner of the $4,000 Richardson Family Henry County Educational Foundation scholarship. Also pictured from left are Robert Richardson, his granddaughter Jessica Richardson and Ken Morgan, representing the Paris Rotary Club. This is the fourth year Page has received the scholarship. She lives in Henry and goes to the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she will be a senior this fall.
The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees approved a nine percent increase in tuition for students attending the University of Tennessee at Martin for the 2011 fall semester. Approval came Thursday during the board's annual meeting in Knoxville.

Instate tuition and fees, including the new tuition rate, will now cost undergraduate students an additional $210.50 or $3,095 per semester to attend UT Martin. Full-time undergraduate enrollment is a minimum of 12 hours. Out-of-state undergraduate tuition will also increase nine percent for an additional $722.50 or a total cost of $9,300 per semester. This increase will enable UT Martin to sustain a high level of academic excellence and personalized student services while still holding tuition levels well below other states,” said Dr. Tom Rakes, UT Martin chancellor.

Tuition and fees will increase $253 for instate graduate students at UT Martin for a total cost of $3,582 per semester starting this fall. Total cost for out-of-state graduate students will increase $765 to $9,787 per semester. Full-time graduate enrollment is nine hours per semester.

Other actions involving UT Martin that were approved included:

- A two-year pilot regional tuition rate for undergraduate students who meet current admissions standards but reside in three Mississippi counties contiguous to the state. This regional rate would include all in-state charges plus an additional 25 percent out-of-state differential for eligible students from Alcorn, Tippah and Tishomingo counties. The regional tuition rate will begin fall 2010. Since 1998, UT Martin has administered the UT Martin McNairy County Center/Selmer, which serves McNairy County and the Southwest Tennessee area bordering Mississippi.

The naming of the alumni center as the Nick and Cathy Dunagan Alumni Center in honor of the Dunagans, both UT Martin alumni. He is chancellor emeritus and she is the university’s former first lady.

- The naming of the Kelly Murray Investment Management Room in the Business Administration Building; the Steven E. Rogers Media Center in the Paul Meek Library, the Kathleen Elam Multipurpose Room in the Bob Carroll Football Building, the Houston Gordon Museum in the Paul Meek Library, and the Dorothea Norton Classroom in Gooch Hall.

- A $3.3 million campus lighting upgrade.

- A $20 special course fee/academic enrichment fee for Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources classes that is estimated to generate $34,860 annually to be used for experiential learning.

Kosta speaks to Greenfield Rotary

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Mr. Kosta said that his Recycle Barn recycles glass, metal, plastic, paper, and aluminum, even computers and recyclable batteries.

The Recycle Barn, located in the old National Guard maintenance building, is open 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Recyclables may also be dropped off on Sunday.
UT Martin student crowned Miss Rodeo Tennessee 2010

A University of Tennessee at Martin student was named Miss Rodeo Tennessee 2010 during statewide competition in Franklin June 28.

Breezy Smith, who is studying to become an intervention teacher, attends classes, participates on the UT Martin Rodeo team, and works two jobs to help finance her education and fund her passion — rodeo.

Breezy is preparing to represent Tennessee this December and vie for the prestigious title of Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas, Nevada.

One of her primary responsibilities will be to promote the sport of rodeo and shine as a positive light on the great state of Tennessee. This privilege comes with obligations to prepare, train and compete and she is dedicated to delivering her best performance. There is a significant amount of funding required for the preparation, travel, lodging and fees to participate. Breezy’s family and friends will help her; however, she will need additional support from community members and local businesses as well.

... Continued On Page 2

Students from across Tennessee recently completed the annual Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Students finish Ag Science summer program

JULY 15, 2010

In its seventh year, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts and sharpen communication, problem-solving and leadership skills. Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol.

They traveled to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis for guided tours of several major agricultural industries. Participants received laptop computers to use while on campus.

Pictured at the closing banquet are Christy Chooch of Hendersonville, and Dr. Joey Melhorn, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences director and professor of agricultural economics. (Submitted Photo)
Web Camp to develop/maintain websites planned for high school students

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THE WEAKLEY COUNTY PRESS

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2010

Design online B.U.S. degree via UT Online

Students who want to earn a flexible degree that is designed for working adults, design their degree and then take courses online to fulfill the requirements can pursue that option via UT Online.

UT Online offers an online Bachelor of University Studies degree program that allows students to incorporate 60 hours or more of credit earned from an accredited post-secondary institution and earn up to 30 credit hours from any of the following: experiential learning, proficiency credit and/or military credit.

Students can choose academic courses that best meet their career goals in this self-designed general studies degree program.

An individualized degree program is constructed in consultation with a faculty adviser whose educational and professional background is related to the student's programmatical goal.

Courses in communications, history, mathematics, computer science, natural sciences, social science and fine arts can be explored while completing a degree conferred by the University of Tennessee at Martin, a fully accredited campus of the University of Tennessee.

Learning online is a different experience than traditional classroom learning, and UT Online has several aids, including a planning guide, to assist students who want to pursue the B.U.S. degree.

One of the unique features of online B.U.S. is the portfolio credit for experiential learning.

Students may have participated in training programs at work, professional or military programs, self-study, hobbies or community activities for which they may receive up to 12 hours of university credit. One of the unique features of online B.U.S. courses can help develop the portfolio.

For more information about the B.U.S. degree, go to www.utm.edu/utonline/bus.php or call 866-587-7589 or 731-881-7589.
Soundscape project offers aesthetic ‘boost’ to Martin

The idea of a musical piece of sculptured art located in the heart of the Martin community has area business leaders excited at the prospect.

Joel Flowers, a University Scholar student attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, has brought forth a vision that combines a contemporary sculpture with music. The result, if it comes to fruition, will be a unique sculpture soundscape in the community that is sure to delight the senses.

A sculpture soundscape is “playable art.” The project will serve two functions. When the soundscape becomes a permanent fixture, its visual appeal can be admired up close or from afar. Its second purpose would be to actually produce viable sound and a unique collage of music.

Flowers is collaborating with project mentor Dr. Julie Hill, assistant professor of music at UT Martin, other UTM professors and local artists in the Martin community.

A ‘SUSTAINABLE’ PROJECT – UT Martin student and artist Joel Flowers (center) maps out the musical art project proposed for the Festival Park area in downtown Martin. TN Downtowns steering committee and Historical Martin Business District members (from left, Lynette Wagster of the Weakley County Press, Leslie Haywood-Moore of Century 21 Real Estate, Olivia Wilson of Olivia’s Opera House and Anita Allen of Monograms and More consider the plans and location for the project.

“This will be a structure that adults and children alike can appreciate on many levels. This project is a joint venture bringing together students and faculty of the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Historic Martin Business District Committee as well as the Martin community at large,” Flowers expressed.

The project budget is estimated at $2,500 for materials. The proposed location for the sculpture soundscape is Festival Park near the gazebo in downtown Martin in a 20×20-foot space.

“The exhibit will have the potential for music making in a number of ways. The first and most natural way will be from wind. Secondly, sound will be achieved by moving together the suspended inner workings of the sculpture against one another. Lastly, implements

SEE SCULPTURE, PAGE 6

SCULPTURE
FROM PAGE 1

in which areas of the sculpture may be struck that will be fixed to the sculpture itself and incorporated into the artistic design,” Flowers explained.

“The Martin Historic Business District is excited to have this potential project in the downtown area. Our goal is to make our downtown a true gathering place for the entire community as it was intended to be. Downtown belongs to the entire city and we hope that residents and businesses will join with us to support this project, which will bring attention to our city, thus increasing traffic and ultimately our local economy,” a MHBD representative explained.

“The principle behind this sculpture echoes the sentiments of the Historic Business District – sustainability of our landscape, by contributing to the well-being of our community and preserving our heritage.”

To contribute to the project or for more information, contact Flowers at 931-249-4791, email joeflow@yahoo.com or Hill at 615-243-2727, by email at jhills@utm.edu.
UTM Center to enhance technology, engineering, mathematics education

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics educators in the region now have a center and online resources to enhance and support teaching in these subject areas.

The West Tennessee Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center for Learning at the University of Tennessee at Martin is designing, organizing and promoting professional development initiatives for area pre-kindergarten-college teachers and also supporting existing undergraduate and graduate programs in STEM education.

A center website, http://www.utm.edu/departments/ stem, provides a clearinghouse for STEM activities and information. Teachers can network, share best practices, and learn about resources, grant activity information, contests and STEM-related current events.

"As a part of a national and state emphasis, we are proud to provide active support for STEM areas including teacher training and student learning," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes.

The center is directed by Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin professor of mathematics, and is located at 227 Hall-Moody Administration Building on campus.

"The importance of knowledge in STEM fields cannot be overemphasized," said Kolitsch. The West Tennessee STEM Center for Learning will provide a focal point for these efforts and for collaborative efforts with the community."

The center also will promote collaboration among UT Martin faculty, other universities, businesses and agencies in STEM-related fields and support STEM-related research.

Additionally, pre-kindergarten-college students will be encouraged to learn and apply math and science concepts, which in turn, will impact the future by better preparing a skilled and capable workforce.

"I am excited that the new STEM Center will provide an opportunity for faculty within the STEM disciplines, as well as across the campus, to collaborate on helping to improve the STEM awareness and education for the West Tennessee region," said Dr. Richard Helgeson, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences interim dean.

For more information about the center, contact Kolitsch at 731-881-7477.

Belote places in national HOSA competition

Amy Belote the 2009-10 President of Westview High School's Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) recently competed at the 33rd National HOSA Competition held at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.

In order to compete at this level, a student must take top honors at Regional and State HOSA competitions with only the top three winners in each state advancing to Nationals. More than 5,000 students competed in National Events.

Belote placed 2nd in the Prepared Speaking. The purpose of this competition is to encourage Health Science Students to improve their skills in speaking and their ability to organize and present facts (or information) about a topic that is related to a specific theme.

Belote had to construct and present her speech on the meaning of the 2010 theme "From Simple Scrapes to Failing Hearts; HOSA's Where the Healing Starts."

The Westview High School's HOSA is extremely proud of Amy.

The HOSA Chapter and advisor Carolyn Glover would like to thank all sponsors and Belote's family for making this opportunity a reality.

Amy Belote is the daughter of David and Dawn Belote, she graduated in the top 10 of her 2010 class and now plans to attend UTM and major in Pre-Med.
UT Martin student crowned Miss Rodeo Tennessee 2010

Breezy Smith, a University of Tennessee at Martin student, was named Miss Rodeo Tennessee 2010 during a statewide competition in Franklin June 28.

Smith attends classes, participates on the UT Martin Rodeo team, and works two jobs to help finance her education and rodeo. Smith is studying to become an intervention teacher.

Smith will represent Tennessee in Las Vegas when she competes for the Miss Rodeo American title this December.

One of her responsibilities will be to promote rodeo and be a positive representative for Tennessee. Smith must prepare, train and compete to deliver her best performance while in Las Vegas.

Smith is asking the community to support her while she competes in Nevada.

Funds are required for fees and travel expenses, and while Smith’s family and friends will help, she’s asking local residents and businesses to help her achieve the dream of becoming the first contestant from Tennessee to earn the title of Miss Rodeo America.

The community has many ways they can donate. Residents can become sponsors or give donations. Also, hosting fundraisers, donating items for a silent auction and bidding for those items are great ways to help Smith become Miss Rodeo America.

Anyone wishing to donate can mail checks to: Miss Tennessee Rodeo, ATT: Kelly Azvedo, 5576 Big East Fork Rd, Franklin, TN 37064. You can follow Smith’s progress to Nevada at her website www.mtrnpageant.com.

STUDENTS ACROSS THE STATE ATTEND GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES – Students from across Tennessee recently completed the annual Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In its seventh year, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts and sharpen communication, problem-solving and leadership skills.

Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. They traveled to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis for guided tours of several major agricultural industries. Participants received laptop computers to use while on campus.

Pictured at the closing banquet are Laura Croom of Greenfield, and Dr. Joey Melhorn, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences director and professor of agricultural economics.
Local Student/UT Martin Scholarship

MONTGOMERY COUNTY STUDENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND UT MARTIN

MARTIN, Tenn. A Montgomery County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Bryan Cornell, son of Michael and Bernada Cornell of Clarksville, will be a freshman. He received the Dean's Scholarship.

Additional information on scholarships and other types of financial assistance is available by contacting UT Martin Office for Student Financial Assistance, 205 Administration Building, UT Martin, Martin, Tenn. 38238. In-state residents telephone 800-859-UTM1; out-of-state residents should call (731) 587-7040.

Miss Keathley accepts chamber internship

Katie Keathley recently accepted a summer internship at the Obion County Chamber of Commerce.

She is a senior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she is majoring in public relations with a minor in marketing.

She plans to graduate in December and then further her education by working toward receiving a master of business administration degree at UT Martin.

Miss Keathley is the daughter of Barry and Janet Keathley of Union City.

Her obligations at the Chamber of Commerce include gathering and distributing information about the community to those new to the area, as well as applying her skills to create brochures and flyers. She is also assisting in creating new ideas for community involvement.

Her supervisors include Robbie Green, the office and communications manager, and Lindsay Frilling, the community development director.

"It is an honor to work with such a great organization that is well-known by what they do in and for the community," Miss Keathley said. "I am gaining a significant amount of knowledge working for the Chamber of Commerce and this experience will benefit me tremendously."

Editor's note: This article was written and submitted by Miss Keathley as a college assignment.
MEDON GRAD JOINS ORDER OF THE ENGINEER

University of Tennessee at Martin engineering graduates were inducted into the Order of the Engineer at a ceremony before spring commencement. Graduates pledged to be ethical and impartial and adhere to safety codes as they enter the engineering profession. Among those taking the oath and receiving a ring and certificate was Kristopher Gordon, of Medon. Left to right are Ed Wheeler, interim chairman of the Department of Engineering, Gordon and Dr. Richard Helgeson, interim dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

Agricultural finance conference registration begins.

David Kohl, an internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agricultural business audiences, will be the featured presenter at the ninth annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug 4 in the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to a news release.

Kohl will be joined on the program by Bob Young, American Farm Bureau Federation chief economist, and Matt Roberts, nationally known expert on grain and energy markets.

Kohl will provide participants with information to avoid pitfalls and maximize profits during his sessions on "The New Economic Realities: Promise or Peril?" and "Credit Risk Profiling — What Every Lender (and Producer) Should Know." Young will address price trends, economic warning signs for agriculture, market opportunities and the changing business of farming during his session "Climate Change in Agriculture: A Roadmap for Ag Businesses." Roberts will present "The Six Hats of a Farmer" focusing on the opportunities and risks facing the wide range of businesses that comprise modern grain farm operations — agronomist, grain elevator, custom machinery operator, land speculator and capital allocator, the release said.
Haley Cobb completes Gov's School

Students from across Tennessee recently completed the annual Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Haley Cobb of Lincoln County High School was among the participants. She was among the 34 finalists to attend UTM for the four-week unique college learning experience.

In its seventh year, Governor's School gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts and sharpen communication, problem-solving and leadership skills.

Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. They traveled to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis for guided tours of several major agricultural industries.

Participants received laptop computers to use while on campus.

Scholarship winners were housed in Browning Hall dormitory for the duration of their stay with only one visit from parents halfway through the program.

The State of Tennessee has provided 12 Governor's School summer programs for gifted and talented high school students since 1985.
Register now for agricultural conference

David Kohl, an internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences, will be the featured presenter at the ninth annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 4 in the Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to a news release.

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The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is appropriate for ag lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners. The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers and $25 for spouses and students. Registration information is available by calling 731-881-7324, or visiting www.utm.edu/agconference. The deadline to register is July 30.

Mid-South Ag Finance conference to focus on multiple topics

MARTIN — Dr. David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences, will be the featured presenter at the ninth annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference will be held in Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 4.

Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last eight sessions and has provided growing audiences with practical information. Kohl will be joined on the program by Dr. Bob Young, American Farm Bureau Federation chief economist, and Matt Roberts, nationally known expert on grain and energy markets.

"As one of the world's leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation, Kohl provides lenders and producers with the most up-to-date and practical information available," said Dr. Thomas Payne, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. In addition to discussing farm policy issues, Young will provide producers and lenders with projections about input costs and output prices.

Also returning is Matt Roberts, who will present "The Six Hats of a Farmer," focusing on the opportunities and risks facing the wide range of businesses that comprise modern grain farm operations — agronomist, grain elevator, custom machinery operator, land speculator and capital allocator. Roberts serves as associate professor of agriculture and environmental economics at Ohio State University and has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, Associated Press and Forbes, and has been interviewed on CNBC.

"This year's conference will host the most prestigious panel yet, and participants will gain practical 'take-home' knowledge from some of the nation's foremost agricultural experts. The conference is an excellent business development opportunity, and the sessions are designed to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information for lenders and ag producers," said Joe Brasher, First State Bank community bank president, Sharon.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is appropriate for ag lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners. Members of the total management team, including spouses and other business partners, should also attend. The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers and $25 for spouses and students. Registration information is available by calling 731-881-7324, or visiting the Web site, www.utm.edu/agconference. Space is limited so registration is requested by July 30.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is made possible through the support of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank, and the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.
Mid-South Conference on Ag planned at UTM

Dr. David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences will be the featured presenter at the ninth annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference.

The conference will be held in Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Aug. 4. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last eight sessions and has provided growing audiences with practical information.

Kohl will be joined on the program by Dr. Bob Young, American Farm Bureau Federation chief economist, and Matt Roberts, nationally known expert on grain and energy markets.

In addition to conducting more than 5,000 workshops and seminars, Kohl was a leader in establishing national and international standards for reporting and analysis of agricultural producers’ financial information.

He will provide participants with information to avoid pitfalls and maximize profits during his sessions on “The New Economic Realities: Promise or Peril?” and “Credit Risk Profiling – What Every Lender (and Producer) Should Know!”

Following an overview of economic conditions and trends, Kohl will focus on easy-to-understand indicators of excessive credit risk and, on the positive side, identify marketing opportunities.

These practical tools will assist with early problem loan identification and trouble-shooting techniques for improving the farm operation’s bottom line.

Ag lenders and producers alike will benefit from his best practice guidelines and suggestions on credit scoring for large and small customers.

Young will address price trends, economic warning signs for agriculture, market opportunities and the changing business of farming during his session “Climate Change in Agriculture: A Roadmap for Ag Businesses.”

In addition to discussing farm policy issues, Young will provide producers and lenders with projections about input costs and output prices.

Also returning is Matt Roberts, who will present “The Six Hats of a Farmer” focusing on the opportunities and risks facing the wide range of businesses that comprise modern grain farm operations – agronomist, grain elevator, custom machinery operator, land speculator and capital allocator.

Roberts serves as associate professor of agriculture and environmental economics at Ohio State University and has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, Associated Press and Forbes, and has been interviewed on CNBC.

“This year’s conference will host the most prestigious panel yet, and participants will gain practical ‘take-home’ knowledge from some of the nation’s foremost agricultural experts.

“The conference is an excellent business development opportunity, and the sessions are designed to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information for lenders and ag producers,” said Joe Brasher, First State Bank community bank president, Sharon.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is appropriate for ag lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners.

Members of the total management team, including spouses and other business partners, should also attend.

The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers and $25 for spouses and students.

Registration information is available by calling 731-881-7324, or visiting the website: www.utm.edu/agconference.

Space is limited so registration is requested by July 30.

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UT Martin to host business tax seminar on Aug. 19

The Tennessee Department of Revenue, Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants and the University of Tennessee - Martin will co-sponsor the annual 2010 Tennessee Business Tax Seminar on Thursday, Aug. 19 from 8:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the Boling University Center, located on the Tennessee Martin campus.

This seminar is designed to provide current, in-depth information on Tennessee tax issues.

State tax specialists will discuss various taxes and present recent developments, including new legislation impacting various tax provisions.

Please contact Mary Geddie at UTM to register and confirm the cost of participating, and availability of credits by calling at (731) 881-7303 or e-mailing mgeddie@utm.edu.

For more information about this and other seminars, please visit http://www.TN.gov/revenue/ or call the Tennessee Department of Revenue at (615) 253-0600.
ROTC Cadet Kimmie C. Balkcom completed Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Ky., on January 21.

He then was on the dean's list at the University of Tennessee at Martin the spring semester.

Balkcom followed this up by successfully completing Airborne School on June 11 at Ft. Benning, Ga.

The cadet is a member of the ROTC program at UT Martin, where he continues as a student.

The 2009 graduate of Stewart County High School is the son of Johnnie and Elaine Balkcom of Dover.

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**ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Students attend Governor's School**

*Learning agricultural processes earns credit*

By Rita Mitchell

Special to My Life

Students from across the state of Tennessee recently completed the annual Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In its seventh year, Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts and sharpen communication, problem-solving and leadership skills.

Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. They traveled to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis for guided tours of several major agricultural industries.

Jacquelyn Ramirez of Memphis is one of the students who recently completed the annual Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. With her at the program's closing ceremony is Dr. Joey Meihorn, Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences director and professor of agricultural economics.

Rita Mitchell is with the Office of University Relations at the University of Tennessee at Martin.
Rock walls, human ring toss at 4H Fun Day

Flags adorn the stage during 4H Fun Day at UT Martin on Tuesday.

ONLINE EXTRA
View a gallery at jacksunsun.com.

At left, Christian Watts scales the National Guard rock wall during 4H Fun Day. At right, Savannah Hamilton catches foam rings.
Mid-South Ag Finance Conference to focus on economic conditions, credit risk, farm profitability, government policy

Dr. David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences will be the featured presenter at the ninth annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference will be held in Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., August 4. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last eight sessions and has provided growing audiences with practical information. Kohl will be joined on the program by Dr. Bob Young, American Farm Bureau Federation chief economist, and Matt Roberts, nationally known expert on grain and energy markets.

"As one of the world's leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation, Kohl provides lenders and producers with the most up-to-date and practical information available," said Dr. Thomas Payne, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. In addition to conducting more than 5,000 workshops and seminars, Kohl was a leader in establishing national and international standards for reporting and analysis of agricultural producers' financial information. He will provide participants with information to avoid pitfalls and maximize profits during his sessions on "The New Economic Realities: Promise or Peril?" and "Credit Risk Profiling: What Every Lender (and Producer) Should Know!" Following an overview of economic conditions and trends, Kohl will focus on easy-to-understand indicators of excessive credit risk and, on the positive side, identify marketing opportunities. These practical tools will assist with early problem loan identification and trouble-shooting techniques for improving the farm operation's bottom line. Ag lenders and producers alike will benefit from his best practice guidelines and suggestions on credit scoring for large and small customers.

Young will address price trends, economic warning signs for agriculture, market opportunities and the changing business of farming during his session "Climate Change in Agriculture: A Roadmap for Ag Businesses." "In his role as chief economist and as someone who understands both agriculture and politics, Young is one of our country's leading experts on cap and trade legislation, energy policy and farm support programs," Payne said. In addition to discussing farm policy issues, Young will provide lenders and producers with projections about input costs and output prices.

Also returning is Matt Roberts, who will present "The Six Hats of a Farmer" focusing on the opportunities and risks facing the wide range of businesses that comprise modern grain farm operations: agronomist, grain elevator, custom machinery operator, land speculator and capital allocator. Roberts serves as associate professor of agriculture and environmental economics at Ohio State University and has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, Associated Press and Forbes, and has been interviewed on CNBC. "This year's conference will host the most prestigious panel yet, and participants will gain practical 'take-home' knowledge from some of the nation's foremost agricultural experts. The conference is an excellent business development opportunity, and the sessions are designed to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information for lenders and ag producers," said Joe Brasher, First State Bank community bank president, Sharon.

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The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is made possible through the support of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank, and the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.

Students attend Governor's School
Learning agricultural processes earns credit

Special to My Life
Posted July 21, 2010 at 6 a.m.

By Rita Mitchell

Students from across the state of Tennessee recently completed the annual Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In its seventh year, Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts and sharpen communication, problem-solving and leadership skills.

Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. They traveled to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis for guided tours of several major agricultural industries.
Center to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics Education

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics educators in the region now have a center and online resources to enhance and support teaching in these subject areas.

The West Tennessee Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center for Learning at the University of Tennessee at Martin is designing, organizing and promoting professional development initiatives for area pre-kindergarten-college teachers and also supporting existing undergraduate and graduate programs in STEM education. A center Web site, http://www.utm.edu/departments/ stem, provides a clearinghouse for STEM activities and information. Teachers can network, share best practices, and learn about resources, grant activity information, contests and STEM-related current events.

"As a part of a national and state emphasis, we are proud to provide active support for STEM areas including teacher training and student learning," said UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes. "The STEM Center is a focused effort to help build student interest and competency in essential areas of study."

The center is directed by Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin professor of mathematics, and is located at 227 Hall-Moody Administration Building on campus.

"The importance of knowledge in STEM fields cannot be overemphasized," said Kolitsch. "UT Martin has talented faculty, staff and students working together to provide leadership in STEM education and research. The West Tennessee STEM Center for Learning will provide a focal point for these efforts and for collaborative efforts with the community."

The center also will promote collaboration among UT Martin faculty, other universities, businesses and agencies in STEM-related fields and support STEM-related research. Additionally, pre-kindergarten-college students will be encouraged to learn and apply math and science concepts, which in turn, will impact the future by better preparing a skilled and capable workforce.

"I am excited that the new STEM Center will provide an opportunity for faculty within the STEM disciplines, as well as across the campus, to collaborate on helping to improve the STEM awareness and education for the West Tennessee region," said Dr. Richard Helgeson, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences interim dean.

For more information about the center, contact Kolitsch at 731-881-7477.

Teachers can study math/science instructional methods

Martin College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and school systems in Jackson/Madison County, Union City and Weakley County, but teachers from other systems may participate. ICaP offers physical science content knowledge and modeling-guided inquiry instructional methods designed to address the new curriculum standards for science.

Participants receive instruction in physics and chemistry concepts and receive equipment they can use to integrate the new content knowledge in their classrooms. They also receive a stipend to cover travel and lodging expenses. Teacher participants may also choose to earn graduate credit.

For more information about ICaP, contact Dr. Lionel Crews, project director, at 731-514-0171 or lcrews@utm.edu.

Dr. Lionel Crews

The Tennessee Department of Education is funding a Math Science Partnership grant to the University of Tennessee at Martin: Institutes of Chemistry and Physics (ICA P).

The original grant was awarded in 2009, and the first group of 16 teachers from grades 5-9 has completed the program. The second group will begin this summer. The anticipated dates of the summer workshops are July 9-17 at UT Martin, with a follow-up hands-on weekend at Reelfoot Lake the weekend of September 24. A wrap-up weekend at Coon Creek Science Center is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of November 5.

Project ICaP represents a partnership between the UT
Belote places in National HOSA Competition

Amy Belote

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Amy is the daughter of David and Dawn Belote. She graduated in the top ten of her 2010 class and now plans to attend UTM and major in Pre-Med.

Students attend Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences

Students from across Tennessee recently completed the annual Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In its seventh year, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts and sharpen communication, problem-solving and leadership skills. Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. They traveled to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis for guided tours of several major agricultural industries. Participants received laptop computers to use while on campus. Pictured at the closing banquet are Laura Croom of Greenfield, and Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences director and professor of agricultural economics.

Cole gets UTM scholarship

Garrett Cole received the University of Tennessee at Martin methioner Scholarship. He is the son of Derek and Deanna Cote of Clarksville.
**Design your own online B.U.S. degree via UT Online**

MARTIN, Tenn. — Students who want to earn a flexible degree that is designed for working adults, design their degree and then take courses online to fulfill the requirements can pursue that option via UT Online.

UT Online offers an online Bachelor of University Studies degree program that allows students to incorporate 60 hours or more of credit earned from an accredited post-secondary institution and earn up to 30 credit hours from any of the following: educational learning, proficiency credit and/or military credit.

Students can choose academic courses that best meet their career goals in this self-designed general studies degree program. An individualized degree program is constructed in consultation with a faculty adviser whose educational and professional background is related to the student's programmatic goal.

Courses in communication, history, mathematics, computer science, natural sciences, social science and fine arts can be explored while completing a degree conferred by the University of Tennessee at Martin, a fully accredited campus of the University of Tennessee.

Learning online is a different experience than traditional classroom learning, and UT Online has several aids, including a planning guide, to assist students who want to pursue a B.U.S. degree.

One of the unique features of online B.U.S. is the portfolio credit for experiential learning. Students may have participated in training programs at work, professional or military programs, self-study, hobbies or community activities for which they may receive up to 12 hours of university credit. One of the online B.U.S. courses can help develop the portfolio.

For more information about the B.U.S. degree, go to www.utm.edu/utonline/bus.php or call 866-587-7589 or 731-881-7589.

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**State CPA Society Awards Scholarships to Local Residents**

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — The Educational & Memorial Foundation of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants (TSCPA) recently awarded scholarships to four West Tennessee area residents for the 2010-11 academic year.

The recipients are: Freed-Hardeman University student Arisley E. Goodman of Sewanee, University of Tennessee-Chattanooga student Isaac H. Pvote of Kenton; and University of Tennessee-Martin students Sara A. Mitchell and Joseph B. Travis of Martin.

Sara A. Mitchell also received the TSCPA West Tennessee Chapter Scholarship Award, which is given to the top accounting student in the West Tennessee Chapter area as determined by the TSCPA Scholarship Awards Committee. Mitchell will be given a plaque in addition to the scholarship in recognition of her outstanding academic achievements.

A total of $120,000 in scholarships was awarded to students attending colleges or universities throughout Tennessee by TSCPA this year. The 119 recipients were chosen from 133 applicants.

In order to qualify for a TSCPA scholarship, candidates must complete introductory courses in accounting and/or be students majoring in accounting. Scholarship recipients were selected on the basis of academic achievement, professor recommendation, leadership skills, financial need and previous receipt of a TSCPA scholarship. For more information about TSCPA's annual scholarship program, visit www.tscpa.com.

TSCPA is the state professional organization for more than 8,900 certified public accountants practicing in all areas of public accounting, education, government, business and industry. The Educational & Memorial Foundation of TSCPA is a non-profit corporation that receives tax-deductible contributions to support its scholarship program for promising accounting students throughout Tennessee. TSCPA is headquartered in Brentwood, Tenn.

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**SOAR prepares UTM students**

Incoming freshmen who plan to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin during the fall semester can get prepared for college life by attending a Summer Orientation and Registration (SOAR) program.

The final SOAR date has been scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, July 26-27. Check-in is set for 2:30 p.m., at Boling University Center.

Students will get the opportunity to meet with academic advisers and register for classes; tour the campus, residence halls and University Village; receive information about student activities, housing and financial aid; and hear detailed information about First-Year Initiative (an orientation for freshmen the week before classes). Students should attend both SOAR and First-Year Initiative prior to the fall semester.

Students and parents will participate in a variety of informational sessions such as those on financial aid, student health services, public safety, bookstore, student employment and other topics. Additional concurrent sessions also are scheduled for students and parents with topics including student activities, Greek life, housing and meal plans. Administrative offices will be open and students and parents will get additional time to tour the campus and visit with UT Martin personnel in housing, admissions and financial aid.

In order to attend SOAR, students must have applied for admission and received a tentative or final acceptance letter. Advance SOAR registration is required. For more information about SOAR, or to register, call the office of admissions at 1-800-829-UTM1 or 731-881-7027. Online registration is also available at www.utm.edu.
Regional center at UTM enhances teaching

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics educators in the region now have a center and online resources to enhance and support teaching in these subject areas.

The West Tennessee Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center for Learning at the University of Tennessee at Martin is designing, organizing and promoting professional development initiatives for area pre-kindergarten-college teachers and also supporting existing undergraduate and graduate programs in STEM education.

A center website ---www.utm.edu/departments/stem---provides a clearinghouse for STEM activities and information. Teachers can network, share best practices and learn about resources, grant activity information, contests and STEM-related current events.

"As a part of a national and state emphasis, we are proud to provide active support for STEM areas, including teacher training and student learning," UT Martin Chancellor Tom Rakes said.

"The STEM Center is a focused effort to help build student interest and competence in essential areas of study."

The center is directed by Dr. Stephanie Kolitsch, UT Martin professor of mathematics, and is located at 227 Hall-Moody Administration Building on campus.

"The importance of knowledge in STEM fields cannot be overemphasized," Kolitsch said. "UT Martin has talented faculty, staff and students working together to provide leadership in STEM education and research.

The West Tennessee STEM Center for Learning will provide a focal point for these efforts and for collaborative efforts with the community."

The center also will promote collaboration among UT Martin faculty, other universities, businesses and agencies in STEM-related fields and support STEM-related research. Additionally, pre-kindergarten-college students will be encouraged to learn and apply math and science concepts, which, in turn, will impact the future by better preparing a skilled and capable workforce.

"I am excited that the new STEM Center will provide an opportunity for faculty within the STEM disciplines, as well as across the campus, to collaborate on helping to improve the STEM awareness and education for the West Tennessee region," said Dr. Richard Helgeson, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences interim dean.

For more information about the new center at UT Martin, contact Kolitsch at (731) 881-7477.

An Obion County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2010-11 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Andrew Berry, son of Chris and Barbara Berry of Obion, received the University of Tennessee Alumni Association Transfer Scholarship. He will be a sophomore.

University of Tennessee at Martin Spring 2010 Dean’s List

JULY 22, 2010

The following Clarksville area students were named to the dean’s list for the Spring 2010 semester at University of Tennessee at Martin.

To be eligible for dean’s list recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the dean’s list with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Stacey L. Appleton, highest honors; Jenna L. Adams, high honors; Kristen L. Bailey, high honors; Christopher Banne, high honors; Christopher A. Brown, honors; Alexis D. Bullock, high honors; Andreas P. Bunjor, highest honors; Joanna B. Corlew, high honors; Andrea L. Cote, high honors; Joel D. Flowers, highest honors; Doronita A. Franks, high honors; Bethany J. Fuller, honors; Brandi R. Hardie, honors; Christine J. Hassell, honors; Kate E. Hegg, highest honors; Tiffany N. Hallman, honors; Kimberly N. Lescom, honors; Michael J. Martin, honors; John R. Minnis, high honors; Joanna L. Molenhauer, honors; Tyler H. Mullen, highest honors; Jeffrey T. Price, highest honors; Ann R. Rauch, high honors; Joel T. Stanley, high honors; Jerika A. Taylor, high honors; David J. Velasquez, highest honors; Shelby N. Wallace, high honors; Tyler R. Baggett, high honors; Jessica M. Watts, high honors; Sarah P. Barnett, highest honors; Alexander J. Eustis, honors; Michael C. Martin, honors; Lori C. Taylor, honors; and Adam R. Travis, highest honors.

The Commercial Appeal

Samba Diop from the Germantown area was recognized as a faculty scholar at the annual University of Tennessee at Martin College of Business and Global Affairs banquet. Presenting the award were (right) Dr. Ernest Moser, dean of the College of Business and Global Affairs, and Dr. Denise Williams, assistant professor of information systems.
United Way distributes $115,000 to area agencies

"People Helping People" is the motto of the Obion County United Way, which is exactly what the organization did with the $115,000 raised during the past fiscal year.

The organization recently held its annual payout ceremony at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Union City (see related photo, Page 2) and distributed the money to 21 local agencies, including Boy Scouts of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of Northwest Tennessee, Crime Stoppers, Obion County Red Cross, Obion County Transient Ministry, Obion County Literacy Council, Obion County Rescue Squad, Obion County Office of Aging, Salvation Army, Northwest Safeline, University of Tennessee at Martin Infant Stimulation, Habitat for Humanity, Agape House, Community Developmental Services, and Chimes for Charity.

(See Page 5, Col. 1)

United Way...

(Continued from Page One)

Lions Club, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, and Hometown Walk of Hope.

"These agencies mean a lot to United Way and a lot to Obion County," said president Kurt Baggett. "It is very important going into the 2010 campaign to spread the word on how important United Way is to these local agencies."

The main source of fund raising for United Way comes from payroll reductions, Baggett said.

For information on United Way funding, contact executive director Steve Rice at 335-4993.

4-HERS HAVE FUN DAY — More than 300 4-H members from across the state attended the annual 4-H Roundup and State 4-H All-Star Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin this week. They showcased projects and leadership skills in competitions and vied for scholarships, among other activities. This year is the 100th anniversary of the University of Tennessee Extension Service and 4-H program. As part of the 4-H All-Star community-service project, a Fun Day was sponsored in conjunction with Operation Military Kids. Children whose parents are deployed or in a deployment cycle joined others for the day-long event. 4-Hers led the youths in games, crafts, team-building activities and swimming. Enjoying the crafts station were Zoe Fletcher (left) of Martin and Matthew Eaves of Union City.
Students from across Tennessee recently completed the annual Governor's School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In its seventh year, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, be exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts and sharpen communication, problem-solving and leadership skills. Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. They traveled to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis for guided tours of several major agricultural industries. Participants received laptop computers to use while on campus. Pictured at the closing banquet are David Harbison of McEwen, and Dr. Joey Mehlhorn, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences director and professor of agricultural economics.
Hall receives UTM scholarship

A Humphreys County student has been awarded a scholarship for the 2010-2011 academic year to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, according to Judy Rayburn, director of admissions.

Josie Hall, daughter of Terry and Joanie Coleman of McEwen, will be a freshman. She received the UTM McWhorter Scholarship/Workshop.

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Memphis Photos

Tipton County participants of the four-week long Governor's School for the Humanities at the University of Tennessee at Martin this summer included Aimée Rovane (left), Courtney Ashley and Charity Dunn, all of Brighton High School.
Alcorn: 'This is my stepping stone'

Saturday, July 24, 2010
Siokston Standard Democrat
By Leonna Heuring
leonmah@standard-democrat.com

SIKESTON — Winning his first Emmy award last month was a major career highlight for broadcast journalist and Sikeston native Cody Alcorn.

But the 27-year-old news anchor and reporter for the FOX affiliate, WHNS FOX Carolina, in Greenville, S.C., said he has more to prove — to the industry and to himself.

"I don't have a big head, and I'm still down to earth," Alcorn assured. "I'm not there yet, and this (Emmy) is my stepping stone."

Alcorn won the award for his feature news report, "Nothing Left To Lose." Making the victory even sweeter was the fact all of his fellow nominees were from a larger Atlanta-based station.

Alcorn's Emmy-winning piece told the story of a young woman who lost her state trooper husband and infant child within a few months' time.

"It was showing people you never know what's going to happen from day to day. She met the man of her dreams, married him, had their son, and within four or five months, it was all ripped away from her," said Alcorn, who admitted he still watches the video when he needs a reality check.

Alcorn said the Emmy award sits in his bedroom and serves as a reminder of the hard work and time he's already put into his career which began only a few years ago.

"I won it, and it will always be with me, but the reality is it's just a statue. That Emmy is not going to get me there," he said, adding he normally really isn't into awards but decided to give them a try this year.

Alcorn, who is the son of Mary Lynn Alcorn of Sikeston and Denny Alcorn of Morley, went to school at The University of Tennessee at Martin, where he graduated with a bachelor's of arts degree in communications.

Before moving to Greenville in July 2006, Cody worked in Jackson, Tenn., where he was a co-anchor on "Good Morning West Tennessee" at WBBJ-TV.

Alcorn worked as a weekend reporter until FOX Carolina decided to revamp its morning show, The Morning News, in January. It went to a four-hour format with Alcorn promoted as a co-anchor of the second half of the show from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Eastern Time. The FOX affiliate reaches viewers in Western North Carolina, Northeast Georgia and Upstate South Carolina.

"It was a huge adjustment," Alcorn recalled about anchoring again. "I went back to my roots and went from working 3 p.m. to midnight to 4 a.m. to noon and going to bed at 7 p.m. each night."

But Alcorn is by no means complaining.

"I still get to go out in the field and do stories," Alcorn said, adding he also likes the challenge of anchoring.

Alcorn is quick to point out anchoring the morning news isn't as glamorous a job as it may seem. His alarm goes off at 2:45 a.m. Monday through Friday, he said.

"It's not what people think. I don't get up and am ready. I get up, throw on a T-shirt, I don't do my hair. I shower, put on dress pants and shoes, and I leave," Alcorn said.

When he arrives to work, he writes stories, makes news beat calls, listens to the police scanner and later gets ready himself for the camera, which includes wearing makeup and fixing his hair. Just before going on the air, Alcorn said he gets ready which includes opening his energy drink and coughing so his voice is ready for the broadcast.

"I'm working from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. to get ready for a two-hour show," Alcorn said.

When the morning show is over, Alcorn spends his time working on and reporting other news stories.
During his time at FOX Carolina Alcorn has reported on some of the region’s biggest stories. He reported from Columbia when musician Travis Barker and DJ AM’s airplane crashed during take off. He reported live from the scene of a 13-hour standoff at a Madison, Ga., motel which stemmed from an Amber Alert in South Carolina. He was also part of the station’s team that reported live from Washington, D.C., during President Obama’s inauguration.

Alcorn’s other work includes reporting as deputies raided drug houses, took down prostitutes in the act and busted men accused of trying to meet up with children for sex.

While he loves his job, the only downfall is he doesn’t get to see his parents that often, especially since he has to work holidays, Alcorn said.

Mary Lynn Alcorn, who attended the Emmys with her son, said words can’t describe the pride she has for her son and his accomplishments.

“For him to have gone outside of his comfort zone and pursue a career he has no concept of and is totally new to him — and then went to a new city — he took the bull by the horns and was totally on his own,” Alcorn said about his son.

She said every parent has moments of pride with their children, and her son’s Emmy win was one of those times.

“He’s so humble and modest and gracious about all of it,” she said. “His dedication is crazy. That’s what has driven him. His expectations of himself are high, and he won’t ever settle for anything less — and he pushes himself.”

Meanwhile, Alcorn said he will remain at FOX Carolina for at least the next two years, and beyond that, he isn’t sure.

“You never know. I didn’t think I’d be in Greenville this long, and it’s a great city with a strong market — but this isn’t where I want to end it,” Alcorn said of his career.

Alcorn admitted he’d like to work for a bigger market someday, maybe even for a network.

“I want to be where the big news is — not so I can be on TV’s nationwide, but I want to be there covering the hurricane in New Orleans and reporting things as they happen. I thrive on that and I like that challenge,” Alcorn said.

Ultimately, Alcorn said he’d like to work on the national level simply for his own validation.

Alcorn added: “It’s not about The Cody Show but more about being there and doing it.”

Viewers can watch Alcorn in action every morning on the Internet through Fox Carolina’s live feed at www.foxcarolina.com.

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**Alcorn’s award-winning piece**

SIKESTON — Sikeston native and broadcast journalist Cody Alcorn won his first Emmy award during the 2010 Southeast Regional Emmy Awards presented by the Southeast Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences June 26 in Atlanta.

The awards recognized the best of the region’s 2009 television production, and Alcorn won the award in the category of Outstanding Achievement Television News Gathering Excellence for his feature news report for “Nothing Left To Lose.”

“My goal was to share the story of Michaela Blanton, who lost her husband, North Carolina State Trooper Shawn Blanton, and their newborn son within a four-month period,” Alcorn said.

The 23-year-old at the time had to deal with losing her entire family so tragically and suddenly, Alcorn recalled.

“After being shot, Shawn was rushed to Mission Hospital where Michaela was already at because she was by their son, Tye’s, bedside, who was born seven weeks premature. Shawn died on the E.R. table inside the same hospital where his son would ultimately die four months later,” Alcorn said.

Alcorn had met Michaela Blanton in the weeks following her husband’s and son’s deaths and told her when she was ready to talk, he’d like to share her story with viewers. A mutual friend also helped Alcorn set up the interview, which took place in Cherokee, N.C., in the same spot the couple had exchanged wedding vows.

“Shawn was killed just two months before their one-year anniversary. “As I said in the story, Michaela’s not the first wife to lose her husband or the first mom to lose her son, but the story is about showing how fragile life really is. I don’t think people realize how much we take each day for granted,”

Alcorn continued. “Michaela is an incredible woman and it was a privilege to be able to share her story. If it changed just one person’s perspective on life then I accomplished my goal.”

Alcorn is the co-anchor of The Morning News and a reporter for WHNS FOX Carolina in Greenville, S.C.

To view the first part of the Alcorn’s series at http://www.foxcarolina.com/video/144967.
Grills graduates UTM, launches education career

Special to the State Gazette

Kelly Grills of Newbern recently graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. Grills majored in English with the intention of returning to the classroom as a teacher and that is just what she has accomplished.

Grills was a recipient of a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Needs-Based Scholarship through the Tennessee Career Center at Dyersburg. "Kelly is a hard worker," said Mike Whiston, Career Center case manager. "She sets clear goals for herself and works to achieve them."

Following graduation in December, Grills landed a teaching job with the Lauderdale County Board of Education. She accepted a temporary position for a teacher on maternity leave. "It's not necessarily easy to find a teaching job mid-school year," said Whiston. "And I won't call it luck, because Kelly was putting in the time and effort."

Grills plans to find a full-time, tenure-track teaching position for the fall. She is also interested in teaching at the community college level as an adjunct instructor for remedial reading. "She loves the classroom," said Whiston. "I wish her all the best."

The Tennessee Career Center is "Where People and Jobs Connect." Jobseekers can qualify for federally funded training programs. For more information contact Mike Whiston at the Tennessee Career Center at Dyersburg - 286-8300 or whiston@tnwork.net.

Creswell serving on board

The Tennessee State Board of Accountancy recently announced its leadership for 2010-11, with Alfred Creswell, CPA, chief managing officer for Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC, serving the third year of his second three-year term.

The Tennessee State Board of Accountancy is part of the Department of Commerce and Insurance, which works to protect consumers while ensuring fair competition for industries and professionals who do business in Tennessee.

For over 30 years, Creswell has dedicated his life to providing quality accounting services. He has been a partner with Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs since 1981, where his practice focuses on tax and firm administration.

He serves on the Licensing and Law & Rules committee of the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy and is an active member of the American Institute of CPAs and Tennessee Society of CPAs.

A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, Creswell, is active in the community. He is the president-elect and treasurer of the Union City Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow, as well as a board member for Discovery Park of America, the Obion County Distinguished Speakers Foundation and the University of Tennessee at Martin Athletics Board.

He is a trustee for Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity at UT Martin and a member of the Union City Shrine club.

He and his wife, Michelle, are members of Union City First United Methodist Church.

Alexander Thompson Arnold CPAs PLLC is one of the largest accounting and consulting firms in the Mid-South and was named the ninth largest accounting firm in the State of Tennessee by Business TN magazine.

Founded in 1946, ATA offers a comprehensive array of tax, audit, accounting, consulting and wealth management services and is an independent member of the BDO Seidman Alliance. The firm has 10 offices in Tennessee and Kentucky. For more information, visit online at www.atacpa.net.
Sikeston native wins regional Emmy award

Monday, July 26, 2001
By Leanna Heuring - Standard Democrat

SIKESTON, Mo. — Winning his first Emmy award last March was a major career highlight for broadcast journalist and Sikeston native Cody Alcorn.

But the 37-year-old news anchor and reporter for the FOX affiliate, WHNS FOX Carolina, in Greenville, S.C., said he has more to prove — to the industry and to himself.

"I don't have a big head, and I'm still down to earth," Alcorn said. "I'm not there yet, and that [Emmy] is my steppingstone."

Alcorn won the award for his feature news report "Nothing Left To Lose," making the victory even sweeter as the fact all of his fellow nominees were from a larger Atlanta-based station.

Alcorn's Emmy-winning piece told the story of a young woman who lost her state trooper husband and infant child within a few months' time.

"It was showing people you never know what's going to happen from day to day. She met the man of her dreams, married him, had their son, and within four or five months it was all ripped away from her," said Alcorn, who admitted he still watches the video when he needs a reality check.

Alcorn said the Emmy award sits in his bedroom and serves as a reminder of the hard work and time he's already put into his career, which began only a few years ago.

"I won it, and it will always be with me, but the reality is, it's just a status. That Emmy is not going to get me there," he said, adding he normally really isn't into awards but decided to give them a try this year.

Alcorn, who is the son of Mary Lynn Alcorn of Sikeston and Denzil Alcorn of Mosley, Mo., went to school at The University of Tennessee at Martin, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in communications.

Alcorn worked as a weekend reporter until FOX Carolina decided to revamp its morning news show in January. It went to a four-hour format with Alcorn promoted as a co-anchor of the second half of the show from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Eastern time. The FOX affiliate reaches viewers in western North Carolina, northeastern Georgia and upstate South Carolina.

"It was a huge adjustment," Alcorn recalled about anchoring again. "I went back to my roots and went from working 3 p.m. to midnight to 4 a.m. to noon and going to bed at 7 p.m. each night."

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Meanwhile, Alcorn said he will remain at FOX Carolina for at least the next two years, and beyond that, he isn't sure.

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Ultimately, Alcorn said he'd like to work on the national level simply for his own validation.

Alcorn added: "It's not about The Cody Show but more about being there and doing it."

Viewers can watch Alcorn in action every morning on the Internet through FOX Carolina's live feed at foxncarolina.com.

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YOUNG SCHOLARS ACADEMY — A select group of area high school students got a taste of college life during the recent seventh annual Young Scholars Academy at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event was sponsored by the UT Martin Office of Student Affairs. Students attended this competitive weeklong summer residential program, designed for upcoming high school juniors and seniors. The non-credit program introduced students to the college experience by focusing on three learning environments: special aptitude development; personal and social development; and college/major exploration. Attending from Weakley County (left to right) were Juakerra Davis, Noel Davis, Bryelle White and Mariah Boyd, who all attend Westview High School; Victoria Stevenson, Obion County Central High School; and (back row) Calvin Walker, Westview High School.

Handgun carry class is scheduled for Aug. 21

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a handgun carry class that will provide participants with the minimum requirements mandated by the state to obtain a handgun carry permit.

The class is planned from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Aug. 21, with Brandon Kidd, state certified handgun instructor, conducting the class. The registration fee is $75.

The class will cover the use, operation and basic cleaning of a handgun. The first four-hour block will be devoted to classroom instruction and the written exam. The second four-hour block will be for firing range instruction and the practical exam. Participants must score a minimum 70 percent on both the written exam and practical exam to successfully complete the course.

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to apply for a handgun carry permit from the State of Tennessee.

Participants must be 21 years of age and have no felony convictions, and will need to provide a handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition appropriate for the handgun, pen or pencil, paper, hearing and eye protection.

Advance registration is required. To register, please call ECOS at 731-881-7082 or register online at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/ecee/nondegree/home.php.
TENNESSEE 4-H ROUNDUP AND STATE ALL-STAR CONFERENCE — More than 300 4-H members from across the state attended the annual 4-H Roundup and State 4-H All-Star Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They showcased projects and leadership skills in competitions and vied for scholarships among other activities, July 19-23. This year is the 100th anniversary of the University of Tennessee Extension Service and 4-H program. As part of the 4-H All-Star community-service project, a Fun Day was sponsored in conjunction with Operation Military Kids. Children whose parents are deployed or in a deployment cycle joined others for the daylong event. 4-Hers led the youths in games, crafts, team-building activities and swimming. Enjoying the crafts station are (bottom left) Rachel Whitman, right, of Martin, assisted by Ashley Jones, of Claiborne County, a 4-H State Council member, (top left) Nolan Johnson, right, of Martin, assisted by Jonathan Walker, of Knoxville, a member of the Blount County 4-H group and (above) Zoe Fletcher, of Martin, and Matthew Eaves, of Union City.
4-H ROUNDUP – More than 300 4-H members from across the state attended the annual 4-H Roundup and State 4-H All-Star Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin. As part of the 4-H All-Star community-service project, a Fun Day was sponsored in conjunction with Operation Military Kids. Children whose parents are deployed or in a deployment cycle joined others for the daylong event. Enjoying the crafts station is Micah Warren, of Martin. Pictured with her are Lynsey Sinclair, left, of Martin, a senior integrated studies major/K-6 and a UT Martin Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center summer employee; and Katherine Barber, right, of Lynchburg, a 4-H All-Star member. For more photos from the event, see Page 14.

The 150-member Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps from Allentown, Pa., was in residence June 22-24 at UT Martin. The nine-time Drum Corps International World Champions hosted a “Cadets Experience” June 23 for 175 high school and UT Martin students, who attended clinics and rehearsed under the instruction of the Cadets staff. Among those attending the “Cadets Experience” were Anna Morris (left), Matthew Grace, Kaitlyn Edmonson and Bradley Cross, all Munford High School band members.
UT Online offers flexibility for students seeking degrees

Students who want to earn a flexible degree that is designed for working adults, design their degree and then take courses online to fulfill the requirements can pursue that option via UT Online.

UT Online offers an online Bachelor of University Studies degree program that allows students to incorporate 60 hours or more of credit earned from an accredited post-secondary institution and earn up to 30 credit hours from any of the following: experiential learning, proficiency credit and/or military credit.

Students can choose academic courses that best meet their career goals in this self-designed general studies degree program. An individualized degree program is constructed in consultation with a faculty adviser whose educational and professional background is related to the student’s programmatic goal.

Courses in communications, history, mathematics, computer science, natural sciences, social science and fine arts can be explored while completing a degree conferred by the University of Tennessee at Martin, a fully accredited campus of UT.

Learning online is a different experience than traditional classroom learning, and UT Online has several aides, including a planning guide, to assist students who want to pursue the B.U.S. degree.

One of the unique features of online B.U.S. is the portfolio credit for experiential learning. Students may have participated in training programs at work, professional or military programs, self-study, hobbies or community activities for which they may receive up to 12 hours of university credit.

For more information, go to www.utm.edu/utonline/bus.php or call 1-866-587-7589 or (731) 881-7589.

ATTEND INSTITUTE — Fourteen teachers earned three hours of graduate credit in English and a stipend for participating in the 18th Invitational Summer Institute of the West Tennessee Writing Project recently at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Teachers shared demonstrations on using writing across the curriculum, learned how to incorporate more technology in their teaching and honed their writing skills in small peer groups. Participants include Dana Craddock, Ridgemont Elementary School; Tara Erwin, South Fulton Middle/High School; Lana Warren, Summer Institute Focal Team leader; Obion County Central High School; and Dr. David Carithers, WTWP director, UT Martin.
YOUNG SCHOLARS — A select group of area high school students got a taste of college life during the recent seventh annual Young Scholars Academy at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event was sponsored by the UT Martin Division of Student Affairs. Students attended this competitive weeklong summer residential program, designed for upcoming high school juniors and seniors.

The non-credit program introduced students to the college experience by focusing on three learning environments: special aptitude development; personal and social development; and college major exploration. Among those attending were (from left) Christian Higgins, Miguel Mendez and Michael Hussey Jr., all of whom attend Obion County Central High School.

Handgun carry class scheduled during August at UT Martin

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The session is planned for 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 21, with Brandon Kidd, state certified handgun instructor, conducting the class. The registration fee is $75.

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Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to apply for a handgun carry permit from the State of Tennessee. Participants must be 21 years of age and have no felony convictions and will need to provide a handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition appropriate for the handgun, pen or pencil, paper, hearing and eye protection.

Advance registration is required.

To register, call ECOS at (731) 881-7082 or register online at www.utmn.edu/departments/ecce/nondegree/home.php.
Mid-South Ag Conference Aug. 4

Dr. David Kohl, internationally known speaker to farmers, lenders and agribusiness audiences will be the featured presenter at the ninth annual Mid-South Agricultural Finance Conference. The conference will be held in Boling University Center at the University of Tennessee at Martin from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Aug. 4. Kohl has been a presenter during each of the last eight sessions and has provided growing audiences with practical information. Kohl will be joined on the program by Dr. Bob Young, American Farm Bureau Federation chief economist, and Matt Roberts, nationally known expert on grain and energy markets.

"As one of the world’s leading ag economists who serves on policy boards and manages his own farming operation, Kohl provides lenders and producers with the most up-to-date and practical information available," said Dr. Thomas Payne, UT Martin Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking. In addition to conducting more than 5,000 workshops and seminars, Kohl was a leader in establishing national and international standards for reporting and analysis of agricultural producers’ financial information. He will provide participants with information to avoid pitfalls and maximize profits during his sessions on “The New Economic Realities: Promise or Peril?” and “Credit Risk Profiling – What Every Lender (and Producer) Should Know!” Following an overview of economic conditions and trends, Kohl will focus on easy-to-understand indicators of excessive credit risk and, on the positive side, identify marketing opportunities. These practical tools will assist with early problem loan identification and trouble-shooting techniques for improving the farm operation’s bottom line. Ag lenders and producers alike will benefit from his best practice guidelines and suggestions on credit scoring for large and small customers.

Young will address price trends, economic warning signs for agriculture, market opportunities and the changing business of farming during his session “Climate Change in Agriculture: A Roadmap for Ag Businesses.” “In his role as chief economist and as someone who understands both agriculture and politics, Bob is one of our country’s leading experts on cap and trade legislation, energy policy and farm support programs,” Payne said. In addition to discussing farm policy issues, Young will provide producers and lenders with projections about input costs and output prices.

Also returning is Matt Roberts, who will present “The Six Hats of a Farmer” focusing on the opportunities and risks facing the wide range of businesses that comprise modern grain farm operations – agronomist, grain elevator, custom machinery operator, land speculator and capital allocator. Roberts serves as associate professor of agriculture and environmental economics at Ohio State University and has been quoted in the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, Associated Press and Forbes, and has been interviewed on CNBC.

“This year’s conference will host the most prestigious panel yet, and participants will gain practical ‘take-home’ knowledge from some of the nation’s foremost agricultural experts. The conference is an excellent business development opportunity, and the sessions are designed to provide the most relevant and up-to-date information for lenders and ag producers,” said Joe Brasher, First State Bank community bank president, Sharon.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is appropriate for ag lenders, farmers and other farm-related business owners. Members of the total management team, including spouses and other business partners, should also attend. The registration fee is $150 for lenders, $75 for farmers and $25 for spouses and students.

Registration information is available by calling 731-881-7324, or visiting the Web site, www.utm.edu/agconference. Space is limited so registration is requested by July 30.

The Mid-South Ag Finance Conference is made possible through the support of the Tennessee Farm Bureau, CoBank, and the UT Martin Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence in Banking.

Several Shelby County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during the recent spring commencement held in Kathleen and Tom Elam Center on the UT Martin campus.

Receiving undergraduate degrees were: Bartlett – Sabrina Lee Shrader; Cordova – Joyce Lacey Hips; Eads – Stephen Fielding Loomis; Brianna Megan Higgs; Rebecca Madeleine Weaver; David Allen Jones; Millington – Robert Edward Lee Gallimore.

Shanta Palmer and Brenda Robertson of Memphis received graduate degrees.
3 attend Governor's School for agriculture

By Rita Mitchell, Special to My Life
Posted July 25, 2010 at 9:22 a.m.

Michelle Frederick of Munford, Samantha Hill of Burlison and Lindsey Turner of Covington were among students from across Tennessee that recently completed the annual Governor’s School for Agricultural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

In its seventh year, Governor’s School for the Agricultural Sciences gives students the opportunity to earn six hours of college credit as they expand their knowledge of food, genetics, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources; are exposed to scientific and land stewardship concepts; and sharpen communication, problem-solving and leadership skills. Also, students were exposed to the manufacturing process for biofuels to include biodiesel and ethanol. They traveled to Moline, Ill., and St. Louis for guided tours of several major agricultural industries. Participants received laptop computers to use while on campus.

Rita Mitchell is the university editor at the University of Tennessee.

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Tennessee 4-H Roundup and State All-Star Conference

More than 300 4-H members from across the state attended the annual 4-H Roundup and State 4-H All-Star Conference at the University of Tennessee at Martin. They showcased projects and leadership skills in competitions and vied for scholarships among other activities, July 19-23. This year is the 100th anniversary of the University of Tennessee Extension Service and 4-H program. As part of the 4-H All-Star community-service project, a Fun Day was sponsored in conjunction with Operation Military Kids. Children whose parents are deployed or in a deployment cycle joined others for the day-long event. 4-Hers led the youths in games, crafts, team-building activities and swimming.

Enjoying the crafts station is Micah Warren, of Martin. Pictured with her are Lynsey Sinclair, left, of Martin, a senior integrated studies major/K-6 and a UT Martin Margaret N. Perry Children’s Center summer employee; and Katherine Barber, right, of Lynchburg, a 4-H All-Star member.

Enjoying the crafts station are, from left, Zoe Fletcher, of Martin, and Matthew Eaves, of Union City.
Enjoying the crafts station is Nolan Johnson, right, of Martin. Helping him is Jonathan Walker, of Knoxville, who is a member of the Blount County 4-H group.

Decker named Outstanding Math/Science Teacher

The University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, recently held its annual spring banquet. At the banquet, the chapter recognized Dyersburg High School's Kim Decker as Outstanding Math/Science Teacher. Pictured left to right are Dr. Nancy Hinds, awards committee chair; Dr. Ann Gathers, Sigma Xi chapter president-elect; award recipient Kim Decker, Dyersburg High School principal Mickey Mahon; back row, Dr. S.K. Airee, chapter president; and Win Decker, Decker’s son.

Scholarship funds donated

Enjoying the crafts station is Rachel Whiteman, right, of Martin. She is being assisted by Ashley Jones, of Claiborne County, a 4-H State Council member.

Representatives of the University of Tennessee Federal Credit Union recently presented a $5,000 check to the University of Tennessee at Martin for the Scholarship Assistance Fund. The funds are derived from the UTFCU Campus Support Program, introduced in 1996. This program allows the credit union to give back a portion of income from the credit and debit card programs to the university communities that are members. Jeanna Swafford, left, interim assistant vice chancellor for development; Debbie Jones, UTFCU chief executive officer; and Gail White UTFCU board of directors chair; presented the check.
Handgun carry class scheduled for August 21

The University of Tennessee at Martin Office of Extended Campus and Online Studies is offering a handgun carry class that will provide participants with the minimum requirements mandated by the state to obtain a handgun carry permit. The class is planned from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., August 21, with Brandon Kidd, state certified handgun instructor, conducting the class. The registration fee is $75.

The class will cover the use, operation and basic cleaning of a handgun. The first four-hour block will be devoted to classroom instruction and the written exam. The second four-hour block will be for firing range instruction and the practical exam. Participants must score a minimum 70 percent on both the written exam and practical exam to successfully complete the course. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to apply for a handgun carry permit from the State of Tennessee. Participants must be 21 years of age and have no felony convictions, and will need to provide a handgun, 50 rounds of ammunition appropriate for the handgun, pen or pencil, paper, hearing and eye protection.

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Local students attend Young Scholars Academy

A select group of area high school students got a taste of college life during the recent seventh annual Young Scholars Academy at the University of Tennessee at Martin. The event was sponsored by the UT Martin Division of Student Affairs. Students attended this competitive weekend summer residential program, designed for upcoming high school juniors and seniors. The non-credit program introduced students to the college experience by focusing on three learning environments: special aptitude development; personal and social development; and college/major exploration.

Attending from Weakley County (left to right) were: Juakerra Davis, Noel Davis, Bryelle White and Mariah Boyd, who all attend Westview High School; Victoria Stevenson, Obion County Central High School; and (back row) Calvin Walker, Westview High School.

WTWP SUMMER INSTITUTE - Fourteen teachers earned three hours of graduate credit in English and a stipend for participating in the 18th Invitational Summer Institute of the West-Tennessee Writing Project, May 8 and June 7-11, at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Teachers shared demonstrations on using writing across the curriculum, learned how to incorporate more technology in their teaching and honed their writing skills in small peer groups. For more information on WTWP visit www.utm.edu/wtwp. Julie Langford, Martin Elementary School is pictured with David Carithers, WTWP director, UT Martin.
UT Martin staff member develops software package

A University of Tennessee at Martin administrative specialist has developed a software package that can manage data and streamline functions in university and college offices that are responsible for grant management, sponsored programs administration and related functions.

Developed by Susan Newbill, Sponsored Programs Administration and Research Compliance System (SPARCS) is a set of relational database templates written in the FileMaker Pro platform.

"Users find point-and-click functions accompanied by help screens and navigational tools that direct them through every step of the process so they don't have to be database experts," Ms. Newbill said.

She said prior to SPARCS, which she developed through her work in the UT Martin Office of Research, Grants and Contracts, the system for managing data was available on Excel spreadsheets that contained no formulas or relationships. The system fell prey to errors and duplications caused by being required to repeatedly enter the same information.

Following exposure of SPARCS at higher education conferences in the past two years, several institutions are piloting SPARCS, a product that initially is targeted for institutions with less than 10,000 students and administrative offices that oversee multiple data and reporting functions.

"SPARCS was created out of need in our office but the potential for commercialization arose out of attending conferences," said Ms. Newbill, who learned that other institutions had critical needs in data management.

"With SPARCS we have not only the ability to have accurate records of our proposals and grants, but we provide the service of automatic reminders and tracking contracts and federal research compliance issues," she added. "The process of reconciling the budgets, which took hours before, is now done in about five minutes. Routine letters and memos are generated automatically rather than being cut and pasted from previous word processing documents."

Since SPARCS was created through her work with UT Martin, the UT Research Foundation actually owns the software and has secured the necessary copyrights. As the creator, Ms. Newbill will share in the profits from sales of the product. The UTRF has also chosen to license the product back to Newbill's company, New Found Solutions, for the purpose of marketing the system commercially.

Under the agreement, the UTRF will remain a stockholder in her company, Plans are to actively market the system in the fall.

She was referred by Dr. Richard Magid, UTRF vice president (Health Science Center Office/Memphis), to JumpStart Foundry, a Nashville-based seed stage microfund. JumpStart has invested $15,000 as seed money to "jumpstart" the business startup and has provided a mentoring team.

Ms. Newbill's JumpStart mentors are Nick Holland, CEO/president, centre source; J. Tod Fetherling, president/CEO, Nashville Technology Council; and Scott Kozlcki, entrepreneur and co-founder of BlueStar Communications.

"JumpStart Foundry is looking for entrepreneurs that have the creative passion to pursue an idea and the technical expertise to develop the concept into a working prototype," Holland said. "This philosophy transcends software, hardware and even physical-everyday products. Our goal is to leverage our expertise and relationships in order to propel the entrepreneur past the concept phase to a point where they can choose to cash flow their operation, seek additional funding, or sell their concept to a larger entity."

Holland said New Found Solutions was a perfect match for JSF once the group recognized Newbill's passion and saw the potential of the SPARCS platform she developed while with UT Martin.

"The team has devoted many hours already to the formation of New Found Solutions," Ms. Newbill said.

"They are training and guiding me so that I might compete ... independently. In return for the many hours and seed money invested by JumpStart, that group will hold a 10 percent interest in New Found Solutions. I consider that to be a small price to pay for the future of New Found Solutions, that I am now convinced will be bright."